

Michael Hart

From: Kelli Damstra <damstrak@gvsu.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 09, 2013 1:38 PM
To: The Office of Senator Jones
Cc: cmhenn@aol.com; Michael Hart
Subject: Senate Bill 674

Dear Senator Jones,

I am writing to thank you for supporting Senate Bill 674.

As a nurse and a faculty member of Grand Valley State University, I share a passion for improving health outcomes and reducing disparities.

Breastfeeding has proven health benefits to infants, mothers, communities, and populations. There are also significant known economic and environmental benefits for families and society as a result of breastfeeding. Because of the known benefits associated with breastfeeding, combined with the known risks associated with *not* breastfeeding, the American Academy of Pediatrics along with numerous other health organizations recommend that the gold standard for infant nutrition is exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life, and then continued breastfeeding at least through the first year.

This breastfeeding legislation is extremely important in taking significant steps toward protecting all breastfeeding mothers from discrimination as well as encouraging new mothers to breastfeed. The proposed legislation is a way to help Michigan ultimately move toward being a healthier state.

I thank you for your time and attention to SB 674, and your continued efforts to work toward improving health outcomes of infants, mothers, communities, and populations.

Sincerely,

Kelli Damstra

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